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# THE DAKOTA STUDENT

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## Career and Internship Fair attracts networking students

By Marie Monson  
The Dakota Student

Students lined up outside of the Memorial Union Ballroom on Wednesday and Thursday for UND's Career and Internship Fair, where a total of 123 companies set up booths to get to know students and to tell potential employees about their companies.

Ilene Odegard, organizer of the event and Director of Career Services, strongly believes all students, not just juniors and seniors, should attend the event in order to begin their networking process as early as they can.

"I tell students as often as I can to not wait until your junior or senior year to attend a Career and Internship Fair," Odegard said. "The most successful students are those who learn to 'market' themselves, build rapport with a company's recruiter



UND student Ryan Przybylski talks to a business representative at the fair.  
Photo by Chester Beltowski/The Dakota Student.

or representative and be identified early on in the process."

Not all attending compa-

nies had been to the fair before — UND has built up a good reputation around its career fair,

making it an appealing event to sign up for if you're a company looking to fill internships and/or

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Assistant Professor Christopher Basgier speaks out at the Essential Studies meeting.  
Photo by Nicholas Nelson/The Dakota Student.

## Meeting discusses future of Essential Studies program

By Colin Johnson  
The Dakota Student

UND held a town hall style meeting to address the issues and to gather feedback with the general education program, called Essential Studies, and whether or not it can be enhanced after a Nov.2014 program review found it lacking.

The Essential Studies Program is a program at UND des-

igned to provide a broad liberal arts education to all students. By requiring students to meet a four "Breadth of Knowledge" learning goals and four special emphases goals prior to graduation, it allows the university to provide exposure to students in all areas deemed necessary.

In general, the requirements cannot all be achieved through course offerings within a student's academic major. This encourages students to participate

in courses outside of their chosen field of study. Furthermore, the nature of the ES requirements also encourages students to integrate more diverse courses throughout their undergraduate college career, rather than commonplace mentality of getting all "general education" requirements over with during the first year at college.

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## Senate supports reduced parking enforcement

By Megan Hoffman  
The Dakota Student

As a group of consultants looks at parking on the UND campus, Student Body President Tanner Franklin brought forward a resolution to the senate that would be in support of no parking enforcement on nights, weekends and holidays.

"This was drafted last semester and was essentially part of our campaign to work on parking," Franklin said. "Is there a need for enforcement on nights, weekends and holidays?"

The resolution didn't draw much discussion because all senators were in agreement with Franklin.

"This is a no nonsense resolution," Senator Leah Larson said. "We've all heard stories, it just makes sense. Almost every university our size has similar rules."

### Reapportionment

Each year, the senate is required to look at all the senate positions and determine if any need to be removed, or added. It was

proposed that the Greek senator position be eliminated, because there is much confusion surrounding the position, which represents a much smaller group.

**This is a  
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resolution.  
We've all heard  
stories, it just  
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Almost every  
university our size  
has similar rules.**

Leah Larson  
student senator

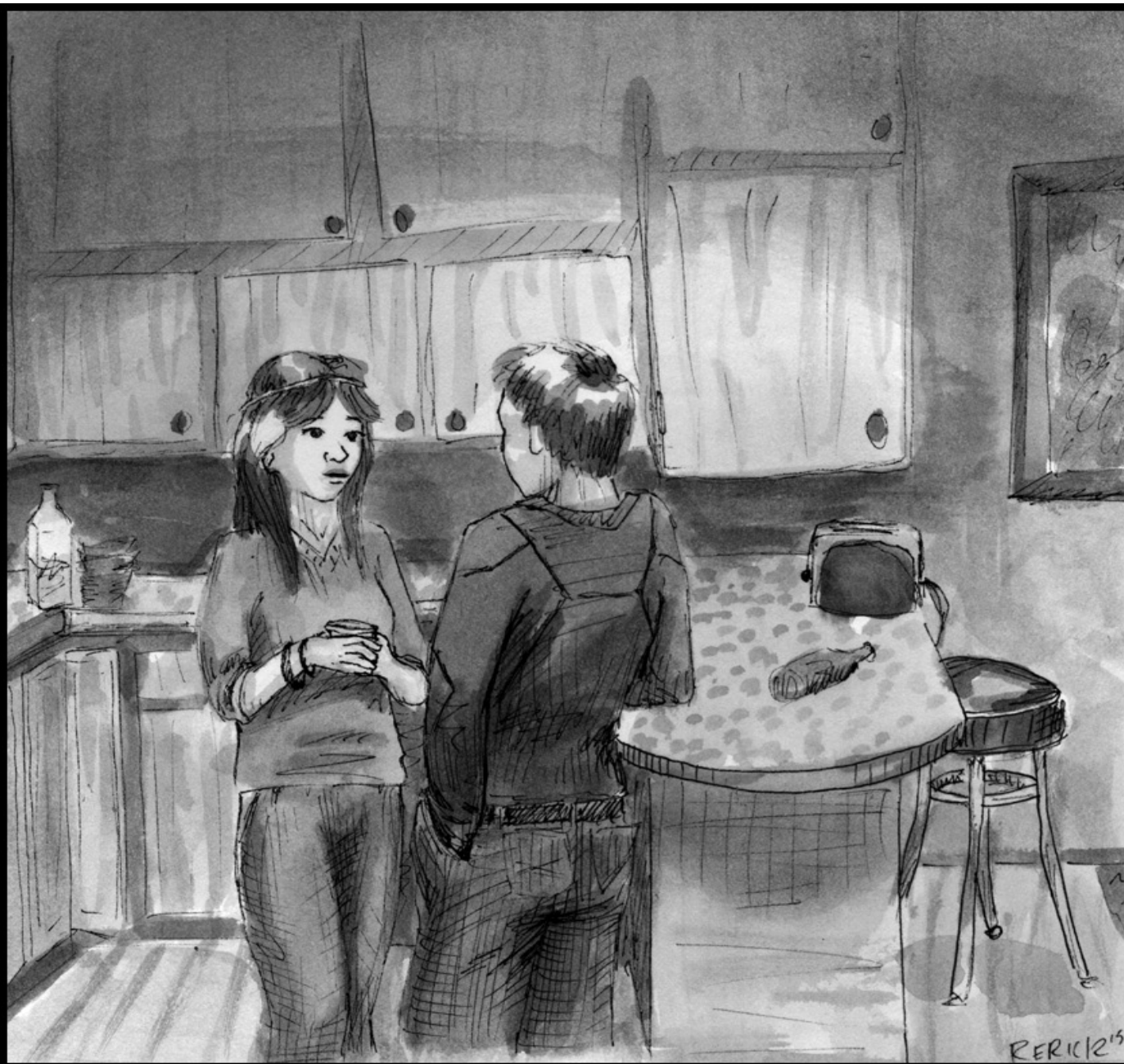
"It's super confusing and it needs to go," Senator Matt Kopp said. "We can add an additional off-campus senator."

The motion was passed, the Greek senate position was eliminated and another off-campus senate position was added.

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# "Moments" by Bill Rerick



Steph felt a little odd. She had just finished talking to the guy that copies her notes during math class. His name was Jeff and he was obviously a little nervous to talk to her. Steph's reservations against him for copying her work were dropped. She figured he was just one of those guys that got nervous around girls. He came right up and began talking to her with the classic "aren't you in my math class" conversation starter. Jeff expanded the conversation to the importance of being genuine and his distastes in popular music. A strange first conversation, but he was really good at listening to her opinion. She admired his confidence to just come talk to her. Their conversation ended abruptly when her friends came back to her and stood there awkwardly staring at him. He became quiet, looked around and left after saying "Ok, Talk to you later."

## THE DAKOTA STUDENT

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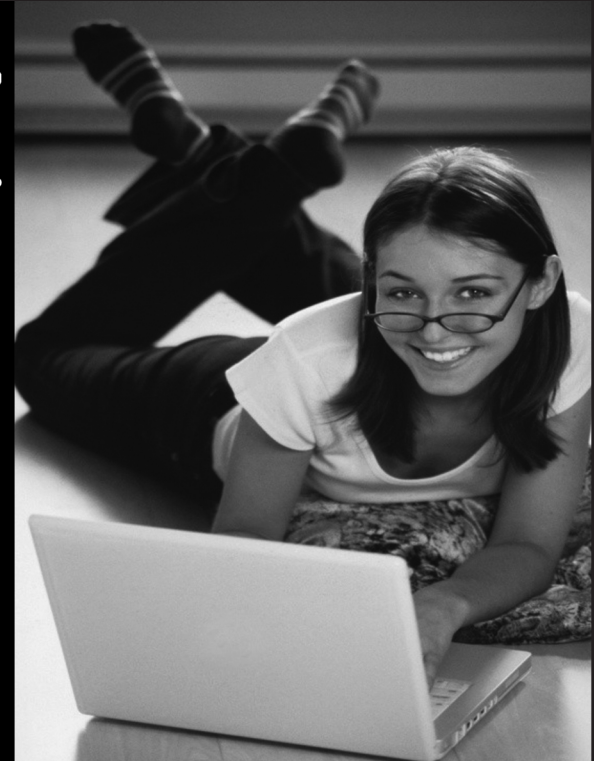
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FROM PAGE

A student government poll was taken in May 2014 with four high performing, highly engaged (and therefore atypical) students and from 507 non random students. The four students shared the frustration that they and their friends experienced with Essential Studies.

They mentioned there are a “lot of requirements” and a too “elaborate system of categories.”

The course approval process forces students to take extra courses because faculty will not or cannot get perfectly good courses approved.

The broad picture from the student government poll is not very positive. Over half voted against the fact that ES courses broaden your education and complemented the major and about a third voted against that the ES requirements are easy to understand and navigate.

Steve Light, UND's associate vice president for academic affair believes students should be heard.

“The overarching themes I had heard from meeting attendees were a need for collaboration, communicating the value of the program and the need to put students first,” Light said.

In 2008, the general education program was revamped, rebranded and Tom Steen — the Director of the University's Office of Essential Studies — was brought in part-time. Since he plans to retire in May, Steen said it was an “ideal” time to evaluate the program.

On Monday, several attendees stressed the importance of finding someone who was full time, flexible and knowledgeable in the area of accreditation requirements, regardless of whether it was an internal or external hire.

“What's not in the report are our two compliments,” Steen said. “Steve and I probably said we want the team to focus on improvements, zero in on improvements and I think we both sort of regret not asking them to zero in on some strengths so that would be foregrounded as well, but it's not what we asked them to do.”

Some at the meeting voiced concern that the finding wasn't very sound due to the limited number of people it could be based on.

However, some changes have already been made in the hopes of offering the best educational experience to students.

“It's not just about the report, it's about where we go with the next steps for Essential Studies,” Steen said. “Some people forget that Essential Studies has 11,000 students and probably two-thirds of our faculty are involved somehow in some way. With the scale of our work in Essential Studies, we think we've got the word out, but it's still not strong enough.”

While nothing is concrete, Light said putting more resources into Essential Studies in order to accomplish these goals is certainly on the table, in addition to curriculum changes and altering administrative structure.

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FROM PAGE

SMIF

A bill proposed to the Student Senate that would help fund the Student Managed Investment Fund's two trips last night was discussed at length before being passed, with revisions.

The original bill proposed to allocate \$5,737 to SMIF to help send six students to a conference at Quinnipiac University and eight others to another conference in Detroit.

“I fully support this,” Kopp said. “This is a model for how these types of funding things should be done.”

Others at the meeting were not as quick to support the bill.

“I think it's a wonderful program,” Franklin said. “But it's a large amount for a select number of students. One of my main concerns is how many students this is going to effect.”

Senator Sam Lerma agreed with Franklin.

“Are we going to be setting a very expensive precedent?” Lerma asked. “As an engineering student, why am I being expected to fund something that benefits the business school?”

The conversation turned to whether the amount would be the same if it was funded by the Student Organization Funding Agency.

“The SOFA model would only fund \$960 if it was a stu-



Treasurer Matt Bluhm speaks about SMIF funding at this week's senate meeting. Photo by Chester Beltowski/The Dakota Student.

dent organization,” Treasurer Matt Bluhm said. “It has nothing to do with how much your travel expenses are projected to be, it's based on miles.”

The bill was amended to allocate \$960 and passed.

“It is appropriate to fund this organization,” Senator John Mitzel said. “It is fair to do it, and that's what the model said they would have gotten.”

Megan Hoffman is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at [megan.hoffman@my.und.edu](mailto:megan.hoffman@my.und.edu)

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# COMMENTARY



File Photo

## Comparing rock walls: The problems with higher education

**Alex  
Bertsch**

The Dakota  
Student



Last week, President Robert Kelley gave his annual state of the university address, discussing the university's plans for growth over the course of the next five years. Part of this plan included adding an additional thousand students to UND.

While most of the goals that Kelley outlined in his speech are admirable, I couldn't help but be skeptical of the idea of increasing the UND student population.

Like most things in American education, it boils down to one thing: Money. With more students, UND could get more money and in turn build a nicer campus with more amenities so that they can get more students. The process repeats from there.

This is far from exclusive to UND. In fact it is happening all over the country. Universities are seeking to add more and more students.

This has created a culture at universities to sell themselves based on their amenities rather than on the programs that they have. While I was touring at both UND and NDSU, all I remember hearing about was how one school's rock wall was bigger than the other. A very similar thing occurred while I was touring the University of Minnesota, I was lead on a tour of the most picturesque buildings on the campus.

The point of what higher edu-

cation is supposed to be has been completely lost, as it becomes less about educating students with well developed programs and has become more about who has the biggest rock wall.

The point of what higher education is suppose to be has been lost, as it becomes less about educating students with well developed programs, and has become more about who has the biggest rock wall.

Alex Bertsch  
*opinion editor*

This is toxic for students who are already attending the university, as the focus moves towards building an environment that attracts new students to attend the university while also encouraging affluent alumni to donate back to the university.

Both of these can easily be seen on campus with the Nickname Committee, which has cost a quarter million dollars finding a way to chose a new nickname. Most of the effort has been focused on how to get alumni involved in the decision, as well as choosing a new name that will help to recruit new students. There was a time when the vote may have just been among the student body. However, that idea seems to have been long since abandoned.

Some may argue that this is

the only way that higher education can function, but there are better ways already in place.

In Finland, all higher education is free. Not only that, but to teach on any level of the education system, you are required a Master's degree. Not only that, but teachers are paid exceptionally well. This creates a culture that values the teacher as the most important part of education, and thus values the quality of teaching in the education process above all else.

This is why Finland, in 2008, ranked first in the UN's Human Development Index that measures the quality of education in a country.

Higher education in the U.S. has served to marginalize professions that don't pay, as college educations become more and more about how much you can make after you graduate rather than what you learn while you're there.

Faculty are paid poorly at almost all state universities and are paid based largely upon tenure. This drives away many talented individuals from coming to the profession.

There needs to be a cultural change in higher education to focus on the education of students and to create a culture that values the ability of its professors and its programs. If schools compete on the basis of their academics, maybe someday campus tours will compare programs and professors, rather than the size of their rock walls.

Alex Bertsch is the opinion editor of The Dakota Student.  
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## TheVIEW Forgotten

What happens when we allow  
ourselves to be anonymous?

By Alex Bertsch

In May of 2014, the top court in the European Union sided with Spanish man Mario Costeja Gonzalez against Google Spain over Gonzalez's "right to be forgotten." Gonzalez wanted Google to delete search results to an article about the foreclosure of his house in 1998, because he had paid his debts, and the information was irrelevant. The decision forced Google to offer the option to remove any information that could "appear to be inadequate, irrelevant or no longer relevant or excessive ... in the light of the time that had elapsed," to all citizens of EU countries.

This is a very troubling decision to a lot of people, as it very well could mean that people could whitewash any unsavory parts of their past. If a person committed a crime, and then ten years later was able to make sure that Google no longer showed any articles relating to the crime.

It is this desire for anonymity that has led to the popularity of apps like Snapchat, YikYak, Whisper and Fade. These apps allow for us to indulge in our desire to be anonymous, or to be able to have our actions disappear.

However, I am left questioning how healthy this is. I don't believe that the desire to delete our past is a healthy one, as what you have been through and what you have experienced are a large part of what make you who you are.

The rise of social media has allowed us to document our lives in ways that we have never been able to before. However, this has had some drawbacks, as now anything stupid that you do on the internet is there forever. Anything racist, sexist or bigoted in anyway that you post on the internet is there forever. But is this a bad thing?

We learn from our mistakes, and we change for the better. If we delete our past, then how can we learn from our actions. Similarly, if we hide behind a mask of anonymity on reddit then why are we saying anything in the first place? If you are unwilling to stand by what you say, then there was no point to saying it in the first place.

But anonymity does have it's benefits. It allows us to debate, laugh and experience the whole of what the internet has to offer without the fear of being judged by anyone. We don't have to worry about any consequences for our actions. And sometimes that is just what we need.

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> Letters must be typed and must include the author's name, major or profession and telephone number.  
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# How to survive a the late night shifts

Kjerstine Trooien

The Dakota Student



As many college students have, I've pulled my fair share of all nighters. We all know how to handle ourselves when we need to do this. But how about when you pull night shifts? If you don't know what to expect, you're in for a rough ride. It doesn't have to be a walk through hell though — keep a few things in mind and graveyard hours can be a walk in the park.

I've done the night shift twice — once during the summer as a baker for a small bakery back home and once at my current job at a hotel for about a month. The first thing to keep in mind when pulling all nighters all the time is scheduling. Make a schedule and stick to it. Go to sleep at the same time every morning. Wake up at the same time every afternoon. Be strict with yourself — it's not fun, but being a zombie is worse.

When getting to and from work and when sleeping, keep the sunlight to a minimum. Wear sunglasses, invest in blackout window shades. Everyone sleeps better in a dark room, but it comes down to more than that. Your body has an internal clock that takes cues from sunlight, making



Photo courtesy of timesfreepress.com

it incredibly difficult to keep night hours when your body disagrees with you on when to go to sleep. Many friend have had luck with sun lamps, but I've never tried them.

As for everyone's favorite drug — caffeine — be smart about how you use it. Coffee was my lifesaver for both jobs. Do not drink it too late though. Although I find the dragging feeling of not being asleep at night hits about four am, if I'm drinking coffee at that time there's no way it will be out of my system by the time I lay down to go to sleep in the morning. I usually find a cup of joe around midnight or one does the trick — late enough to last a shift,

early enough that it won't keep me up during the day.

Coffee (or energy drinks) should not be the only hydration you have, though. Stay hydrated. This is a good rule no matter what hours you work, but especially important when adjusting to a night shift. The first benefit of water is pretty straightforward: it's hard to fall asleep when your bladder is yelling at you. The second benefit from water comes from the act of staying hydrated itself. Dehydration's biggest symptom is fatigue, and therefore one of your biggest enemies.

On your days off, as tempting as it may be to go frolic in the sun, keep

to your schedule. There are many ways to take care of errands while working nights — it simply takes planning. Find out if your rent office has a dropbox so that you don't have to drop off rent during the day. Pay your electric bill online. Shop somewhere that's open late (or 24 hours). Sure, they may be a hassle, but if you want to keep to your sleep schedule, they are completely worth it.

Last, find things at night you enjoy. Take up a craft. Learn a language. Have movie nights with your friends. The hardest part of the night shift for me wasn't the work itself but the days off. Most of my activities are daytime things.

When you're finally done with the night shift and need to switch back to daylight time, there are a couple of tricks I've had work.

The first is the most obvious — power through the day. This isn't as hard as it sounds ... until you go to sleep that night. It will be tempting to oversleep. Don't do it. You'll simply throw off your circadian rhythm even more. I've been there, and believe me, it's far worse than dragging your butt out of bed at six a.m.

The second didn't work as well for me, but I've heard others have had success. Sleep through it as much as possible — the goal is to sleep roughly 36 hours. If you're not asleep, you should be trying to sleep. Keep something easy to eat (I used the applesauce pouches that are practically everywhere nowadays) and plenty of water by your bed. You will wake up at least once and be very hungry (thus the snack). As for calls of nature, do your best to keep things as dark as possible. Nightlights help keep bathrooms lit, but dimly enough that you don't fall asleep.


Night shifts are a necessary evil, but they don't have to be unpleasant. Both times I've worked them, I came to enjoy the quiet solitude the night brought with it. However, returning to the daylight is wonderful too.

Kjerstine Trooien is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at [kjerstine.trooien@my.und.edu](mailto:kjerstine.trooien@my.und.edu)

# Einstein and the false dichotomy of beliefs

Alex Bertsch

The Dakota Student



The following is a letter received by Albert Einstein from a girl named Phyllis.

"The Riverside Church  
January 19, 1936  
My dear Dr. Einstein,  
We have brought up the question: Do scientists pray? in our Sunday school class. It began by asking whether we could believe in both science and religion. We are writing to scientists and other important men, to try and have our own question answered.

We will feel greatly honored if you will answer our question: Do scientists pray, and what do they pray for?

We are in the sixth grade, Miss Ellis's class.  
Respectfully yours,  
Phyllis"  
Einstein did respond to Phyllis' question.

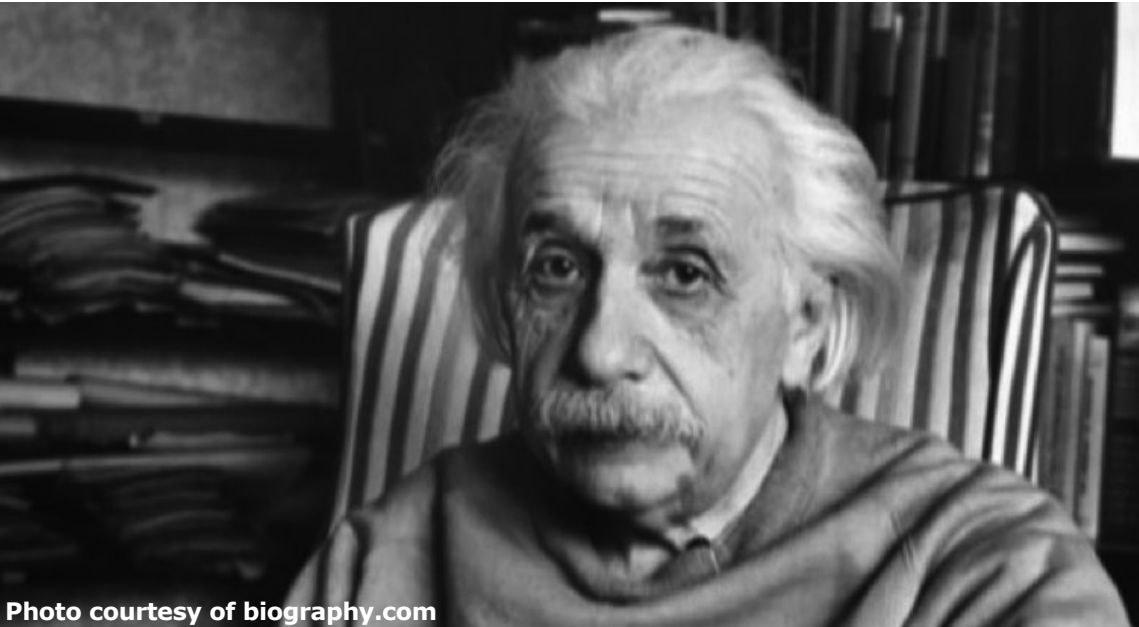


Photo courtesy of biography.com

"January 24, 1936  
Dear Phyllis,  
I will attempt to reply to your question as simply as I can. Here is my answer:

Scientists believe that every occurrence, including the affairs of human beings, is due to the laws of nature. Therefore a scientist cannot be inclined to believe that the course of events can be influenced by prayer, that is, by a supernaturally manifest-

ed wish.

However, we must concede that our actual knowledge of these forces is imperfect, so that in the end the belief in the existence of a final, ultimate spirit rests on a kind of faith. Such belief remains widespread even with the current achievements in science.

But also, everyone who is seriously involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that

some spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe, one that is vastly superior to that of man. In this way the pursuit of science leads to a religious feeling of a special sort, which is surely quite different from the religiosity of someone more naive.

With cordial greetings,  
your A. Einstein"  
Although at the time that this letter was written, Einstein had just escaped persecution in

Nazi Germany, and was a Nobel Prize winning physicist living in the U.S. he still took the time to answer this question from a child.

What is important isn't what Einstein says, but rather what he doesn't say. He never answers the question of whether or not he believes in a God in the traditional sense. Einstein didn't allow himself to alienate this child by saying that there was or wasn't a God.

Far too often today we see dichotomies created between beliefs. Either you're with a belief system or you're against it.

These, however, are false dichotomies. As Einstein points out, you can believe in science and scientific reasoning while still believing in a God. This is true of all beliefs.

Hate and separation are created by the idea that your beliefs make you different, but as Einstein suggests, that is not the case at all.

Alex Bertsch is the opinion editor for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at [alexander.j.bertsch@my.und.edu](mailto:alexander.j.bertsch@my.und.edu)

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FAIR FROM PAGE 1

entry level positions.

Melissa Stout, Human Resource Generalist from Coyote West, said her company is looking to fill both fields, and due to the recent opening of a branch in Minneapolis, Coyote West decided to attend this year's career fair in Grand Forks.

"We've always heard good things about the fair here," Stout said. "It's a good school and geographically close to one of our branches."

Other vendors didn't have to travel quite so far.

Marci Kloety, Director of Development for Northwestern Mutual in Grand Forks, said they've been coming to the fair for years and have felt that it has been worth the investment.

"Every career fair we're introduced to someone who joins our team," Kloety said.

According to Odegard, the pickings will be far from slim for the attending companies with close to 1,000 students expected to make their rounds over the two day event.

Several interviews were conducted during the two days, some of them going better than others.

"Yes (interviews happen at

the fairs), both before and after the event," Odegard said. "For instance, this time we have over 100 interviews scheduled around this time of year alone."

UND senior and aviation major Shunan Xu said he interviewed at the last career fair but didn't get any feedback. He also said that as an international student it is difficult for him and his friends and the whole process of getting hired after graduation is more complex.

Despite these hurdles, Xu reflected on the fair with a positive attitude.

"It's a good resource and I think it's a good environment to increase experience," he said.

Marie Monson is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at marie.iva.monson@my.und.edu



UND student James Warrington talks to a North Dakota State Trooper. Photo by Chester Beltowski/The Dakota Student.

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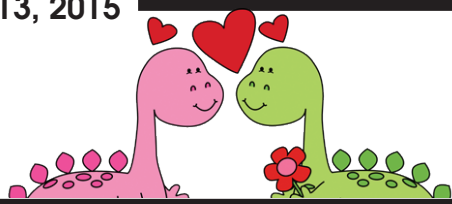
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## UND student earns spot in exhibition

By **Brendan McCabe**  
The Dakota Student

North Dakota is not usually known for its thriving cultural life. When people think of our state, sprawling prairies and endless cornfields are typically the first things that come to mind. But this could not be further from the truth.

North Dakota is home to many talented artists and multiple art galleries, one of which is currently featured in the Hughes Fine Arts Center titled “Of Memory, Bone and Myth.”

The photo exhibit will be running until Feb. 19, and is open from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. It’s open from Monday

through Friday, and is based on the varied perception of memory.

“‘Of Memory, Bone and Myth’ has to do with memories and how we retain them,” associate professor of Art and Design Suzanne Gonzalez-Smith said. “The whole concept is that is the photo real? Is it fake? Is it alive, or is it

dead?”

When asked what she would tell somebody who was on the fence about attending the exhibition, Gonzalez-Smith replied, “I would tell them it’s a really good way for someone to see how different people perceive memories. It defines how we handle a memory.”

What makes the pieces in this exhibit stand out from the rest is the unique way they are chosen.

“‘Of Memory, Bone and Myth’ is a nationally juried exhibit,” Art and Design department chair Art Jones said. “This means that every year an outside juror is brought in, and that juror will come in and not only judge but also meet with students to critique their work and give guest lectures.”

“The photographs in ‘Of Memory, Bone and Myth’ embrace the notion of invention as they suggest ways of interpreting our everyday life beyond that of factual events,” this year’s juror Thomas Young said — photographer and pro-

fessor of art emeritus at Greenfield Community College.

Artists from around the country could submit work to the “Of Memory, Bone and Myth” photo exhibition, with a chance to win a grand prize of \$300.

“We had 54 candidates enter this year, and each had the opportunity to submit four pieces,” Gonzalez-Smith said. “Out of those 54, we chose 13 artists’ work for the exhibition.”

Despite these artists being from around the nation, a student from the University of North Dakota managed to pass the juror’s stringent standards and had their work included in the exhibition.

“There was one student local to UND that made it this year,” Gonzalez-Smith said. “In the past we have had grad students win the grand prize. It is awesome to see students trump the pros.”

Brendan McCabe is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at [brendan.mccabe@my.und.edu](mailto:brendan.mccabe@my.und.edu)



**Student Lexi Hanson stands with her art, presented at the 6th Annual “Of Memory, Bone and Myth” Photo Exhibition. Photo by Chester Beltowski/The Dakota Student.**

## The business of branching out: Hatchet Apparel

By **Serianna Henkel**  
The Dakota Student

Being a young business owner is something many students dream about. It’s one thing to have an idea, but it’s another to have the drive and the resources to move forward. Nick Thompson, founder of Hatchet Apparel, is currently making that dream a reality.

“I’ve always had a really crazy passion for clothes,” Thompson said, who owns roughly 60 pairs of shoes and 70 hats.

“At a young age I knew that I didn’t want to work for somebody,” Thompson said. “I was always into clothing, and into the design/art side as well, so I kind of just brought all three together.”

Thompson credits his interest in entrepreneurship to his father and uncle, who are both self-employed. The latter is no stranger to small business — Kelly Thompson, Thompson’s uncle, owns both Urban Stampede and Ink Inc. in downtown Grand Forks, and assists Nick with screen printing needs for his company.

Hatchet Apparel has been up and running for a little over a year now, but the idea itself was several years in the making. Those years consisted of extensive traveling, re-

search and becoming familiar with the clothing industry.

Thompson had help along the way from friend and former business partner Tom Hadlich, who assisted heavily in the initial graphic design aspect of the process. About six straight months went into the hard work of getting things in order such as the name, design and branding.

The Hatchet brand name derives from the object itself; a tool used outdoors. Like the small ax, Thompson’s clothes are geared towards an outdoor lifestyle, with a product line made up of mostly hats and sweatshirts for casual wear. The company’s slogan, “Branch Out,” encourages customers to seek adventure in the outdoors.

Not being a student at the time, Thompson was inspired by his business endeavors to explore his options for education.

“I had the creative ideas, but not the tools or knowledge to bring those designs or ideas to fruition,” said Thompson.

Thompson was then introduced to several UND professors in the graphic design, business and entrepreneurship disciplines by Hadlich. These meetings were pivotal, not



**Hatchet Apparel hats. Photo courtesy of Hatchet Apparel Facebook page.**



# AH! Talks introduces first speaker

By **Katie Haines**  
The Dakota Student

Professor Michael O'Rourke was welcomed by UND as its first presenter of the spring semester for AH! Talks (Arts and Humanities Talks) speaker series.

O'Rourke, professor of Philosophy and faculty in Ag-BioResearch at Michigan State University, challenged his audience to think more broadly about the role of the humanities in his presentation titled "Interdisciplinary Responses to Complex Problems: Are the Humanities Relevant?"

"It's not obvious that a discipline like philosophy might have much to add (to a scientific discussion)," O'Rourke said. "But these issues will always involve people. We're not robots."

O'Rourke is a large supporter of the humanities and what they can provide to a university. He believes that the humanities should be working side-by-side with the sciences in order to do its part in a university.

"Scholars in the humanities have a significant role to play in the interdisciplinary implementation of responses to complex problems," O'Rourke said in a press release.

**It's not obvious that a discipline like philosophy might have much to add (to a scientific discussion). But these issues will always involve people. We're not robots.**

Michael O'Rourke  
*professor of philosophy*

"I thought Professor O'Rourke's lecture was very interesting," sophomore Eve Trainor said. "Some of it went a little over my head but I had a lot of fun listening to him and trying to come to my own conclusions about his ideas."

**About AH!**

According to a UND press release, AH! Talks is an "Interdisciplinary Studies speaker series at UND. These presentations are designed to engage interdisciplinary thinking broadly and to be accessible to the larger community – bringing listeners to their own "AH!" moments as intellectual connections are made and our understanding of one another expands."

The talks are designed to create questions from humanities students and staff in a smaller setting. Generally the conversations are between arts and humanities scholars, but do not discourage outside studies.

**About O'Rourke**

O'Rourke's research interests include environmental philosophy, the nature of epistemic integration and communication in collaborative, cross-disciplinary research and the nature of linguistic communication between intelligent agents.

He is Director of the Toolbox Project, an NSF-sponsored research initiative that investigates philosophical approaches to facilitating interdisciplinary research.

O'Rourke has published extensively on the topics of

communication, interdisciplinary theory and practice and robotic agent design.

In the past he has been a co-principal investigator or collaborator on funded projects involving environmental science education, facilitating cross-disciplinary communication, biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, resilience in environmental systems, and autonomous underwater vehicles.

O'Rourke co-founded and served as co-director of the Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, an interdisciplinary conference on philosophical themes, and as co-editor of the Topics in Contemporary Philosophy series published by MIT Press.

Katie Haines is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at [katie.haines@my.und.edu](mailto:katie.haines@my.und.edu)



**Professor Michael O'Rourke discusses philosophy at the AH! Talks first session Tuesday.**



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## HATCHET | 7

FROM PAGE

only in building knowledge, but assisting in ideas and providing constructive criticism. Shortly after, Thompson enrolled at UND.

"Before, I was not a student, I wasn't doing anything," Thompson said. "My family members were obviously supporting me, but they saw more potential in me than what I was doing at the time."

His education has improved his knowledge of the business world, and has made it possible for logos and designs to be more of his own work. However Thompson does not shy away from reaching out to other artists. Thompson frequently collab-

orates with other graphic designers and photographers to further improve and market his brand. He uses Hatchet Apparel as not only a platform for his own advancement, but as a means to join forces with other creative minds.

Currently, Thompson is living in a reality that doesn't always seem real to him. At just 23, he already has a year under his belt of managing his own clothing line.

"It's weird being young and owning a company," Thompson said. "I feel like some people are thinking 'Oh, this kid does have his head on straight.'"

Serianna Henkel is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at [serianna.henkel@my.und.edu](mailto:serianna.henkel@my.und.edu)

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## RETURN | 12

sophomore campaign notching one goal and seven assists.

He may not yet be back to the caliber he knows he can play at — he might not be back at it this weekend. But Stecher's work ethic has proven the difference in his ability to reach that level.

"He had a couple pretty good games coming back," UND

coach Dave Hakstol said. "I think he went through the usual ups and downs of coming back into the lineup after you've been out for eight weeks. But overall, he had a pretty good weekend, and that series was obviously as competitive as we've had, and it was a good sign for him. He's still got a ways to go. You don't get it all back one weekend — you don't get it all back in one or two weeks. He's got to just keep

working toward getting back to his level."

North Dakota was in a good spot when Stecher went down, having compiled a 13-3-2 record and ranking itself as the No. 1 team in the country.

That made it even more difficult for Stecher, knowing he couldn't be on the ice building up and assisting his teammates. Yet he was still able to keep a positive mindset.

"I think it was kind of easy in ways, and obviously difficult in other ways," Stecher said. "I had good support from the coaching staff and the players. Obviously they were really supportive. They always had an upbeat tempo with me and gave me some good vibes.

"But at the same time, it was frustrating that I couldn't be out there helping. It wasn't an injury where you could work on it. It was just a matter of time. It was kind of frustrating not being able to do anything."

This weekend, he will. The long wait is over, and Stecher will use the Denver series as a stepping stone toward improvement.

Attending to his physical abilities may take time, but Stecher's mentality remains tough.

The sophomore has always carried a strong personality and made the team a priority.

"Great personality — he's a great teammate," Hakstol said. "Very direct, very straightforward. What you see is what you get at all different levels. He's a competitive person that's not afraid to say what's on his mind. But everything that is on his mind has 'team' first, and that's a pretty important trait to have. He's becoming one of our quiet leaders.

The depth of UND's lineup and its equipped leaders are preparing to face the Pioneers in another anticipated rivalry series

against a Denver team that boasts a top-scoring defenseman in Joey LaLeggia, and the top penalty-killing unit in the NCHC.

**Everything that is on his mind has "team" first, and that's a pretty important trait to have. He's becoming one of our quiet leaders.**

Dave Hakstol  
UND men's hockey coach

North Dakota's split last weekend has it looking for four points.

With Stecher's return, his teammates continue to feel confident heading into a highly competitive series.

"It's been huge," UND senior captain Stephane Pattyn said. "Troy's a competitor. He brings it every shift, and he's very reliable for us back there. He simplifies our game. I think that's something that he adds to our success. Having him back from injury is definitely going to help us down the stretch here."

Elizabeth Erickson is the sports editor of The Dakota Student. She can be reached at [elizabeth.e.erickson@my.und.edu](mailto:elizabeth.e.erickson@my.und.edu)

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“...that’s not fair to the people that are here right now. So our expectations are to compete for the championship.”

Jordan Stevens  
UND softball coach

**SOFTBALL | 12**  
FROM PAGE

University of Illinois at Chicago. North Dakota went 0-3 in the first three games, but was able to sneak in a win in the fourth game, defeating Western Illinois 5-3.

Hannah Bergh, a freshman pitcher from Orono, Minnesota, picked up her first collegiate win of her young career last Sunday against Western Illinois. Bergh only allowed one run in 5.2 innings pitched.

“We played a more complete game today, and it was nice to end the trip with a win,” Stevens said. “We have to get back to work on things that are important to us, and get better each day until we get to play again.”

With the season starting to get rolling, North Dakota will look to improve from last season’s 6-39 overall record. The team also was unable to clinch a playoff berth last sea-

son, finishing with a 3-11 in Big Sky matchups.

Playing better in the conference is an aspect of the team’s game Stevens said is a goal for this season.

North Dakota returns to action Feb. 20 when it will travel to Madeira Beach, Fla. for a tournament where it will open up against Robert Morris University.

“We said right from the get-go that we wanted to win the conference,” Stevens said. “We’re not really into plotting a course and waiting a long time. Although, I think that’s what people kind of expect for us — that it’s going to take a few years — but that’s not fair to the people that are here right now. So our expectations are to compete for the championship.”

Ben Novak is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at benjamin.novak@my.und.edu

# One step closer to the top

— UND women’s basketball team prepares for weekend

NICHOLAS NELSON | THE DAKOTA STUDENT



Junior Mia Loyd dribbles the ball at the Betty Engelsad Sioux Center. Loyd garnered Big Sky honors earlier this week for the fourth time this season.

**Staff Report**  
The Dakota Student

After taking on a Montana team that sat one game ahead of North Dakota, the UND women’s basketball team will continue its road series tomorrow against Montana State.

The Bobcats were the only team to take down UND at home last season, but this weekend offers a chance for redemption.

“It’s February, so you look at it from the standpoint of positioning yourself for the tournament, possibly even hosting the tournament,” UND coach Travis Bewster said. “It’s going to take a lot of work and it’s exciting for our young people.”

That excitement continues to resonate as UND will take on the

challenge of clinching a road win. The team is only one of five league schools with multiple road conference wins in the 2014-15 season.

While the battle may be a test of where North Dakota stands, it’s also a way of measuring how far the team has come from the beginning of the season.

“You want to know where you’re at compared to what’s going on outside of the conference too,” Brewster said. “I think we did that very well in the beginning of the year, so we got to see where we’re at. And now at this time of the year we can improve upon ourselves where we were at to start the season. Obviously, playing the preseason WNIT helped us, being able to get a measuring stick to start the Big Sky.”

The last time UND saw Mon-

tana State was Jan. 1 when the Bobcats fell to UND 82-74 at the Betty Engelstad Sioux Center.

**Weekly honors**

North Dakota will look to continue its success with the help of Mia Loyd, who was named Big Sky Conference Player of the Week on Monday for the fourth time. Her performance last weekend led UND to two conference wins over Southern Utah and Northern Arizona, when she notched an average of 19.5 and 9.5 rebounds.

Loyd’s 23 points last Saturday marked the eighth time the junior recorded a 20-point game.

A Minneapolis native, Loyd surpassed the 900-point mark to put her name alongside three other active UND players to notch the mark.



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# Stecher continues road to improvement

— UND sophomore defenseman takes strides after eight weeks out of lineup, prepares to face Denver



NICHOLAS NELSON | THEDAKOTASTUDENT

Troy Stecher skates at Ralph Engelstad Arena in November before an injury on Dec. 6 took him out of the lineup until late January.

By Elizabeth Erickson  
The Dakota Student

It was Troy Stecher’s first series out. He didn’t travel with the team. Instead of skating at Magnus Arena when the UND men’s hockey team last played and split against Denver in mid-December,

Stecher was watching the game on TV. Just a week prior, the sophomore defenseman crashed hard into the boards behind the net during the Dec. 6 Lake Superior State game at home, and was only able to crawl halfway back to the bench. But this weekend, he’ll get

his chance to battle the Pioneers. Stecher’s lower body injury kept him from the lineup for eight long weeks until he was able to join his teammates on the ice a few weeks ago in Omaha. “I feel good,” Stecher said. “Happy to be back. Obviously, it was nice to get in the lineup against Omaha — getting back

into the game routine, getting into shape and finding chemistry again with Gage (Ausmus). I think before my injury, we were playing pretty well together. We were playing big roles. Looking forward to trying to get back to that level.” Stecher shook off the rust, tallying seven shots on goal

against the Mavericks, and worked his way back into finding a rhythm. As UND’s only freshman last year to appear in all 42 games, Stecher ranked sixth among rookie defensemen in scoring and spent the first half of his

RETURN | page 10

# Softball team swings into spring season

— UND women welcome new coach, clinch first victory over Western Illinois last weekend

By Ben Novak  
The Dakota Student

It’s a new year, and a new season for the UND softball team. In addition to the 2015 season starting, the team also will be welcoming a new head coach, Jordan Stevens.

Stevens spent the previous four years as the head coach at Valparaiso University in Illinois, where he guided his team to consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and finished with an overall record of 163-104-1 in his tenure at the university. “Everything’s new, and we’ll have a lot of new people out on

the field too,” Stevens said. “A lot of freshmen making good contributions throughout the first month. We’re going to play a lot of people that didn’t have a chance the last couple of years, so it’s going to be new for everybody. It’s always exciting to start the year, and everybody’s ready to go.”

This year’s squad is home to only two seniors, along with five juniors. The rest of the eleven players consist of six freshmen and five sophomores. “We’re going to be inexperienced,” Stevens said. “We’re going to play two freshmen as No. 1 and 2 pitchers. They’ve thrown really well and they’re going to

compete for us. We’re a little thin at that position this year in terms of depth with a couple injuries, but that’s no excuse.” The Green and White kicked off the season last weekend with a tournament at

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